

NCC Minutes 9/21/09

Open meeting: 7:05 p.m.

Present: R. Konisky, L.Hill, D. Mason, A. Watts, S. Shope, Sel. R. Gilbert, Guests T. Walker, D. Clements, P. Richardson, B. Hart of SLT and D. Hyde of NC

1) Administrative Business:

- a) Treasurer's report: A. Watts motions to accept, S. Shope seconds, all in favor YES.
- b) Minutes 8/17/09: D. Mason motions to accept as revised, A. Watts seconds, all in favor YES.

2) Newlin-Sellers Property: R. Gilbert

- Land was donated to the town in memory of Mrs. Hilton. The previous landowners met with the Selectmen to voice their concerns on several issues.
 - They had envisioned the land be used by the public but no trails have been established as the deed states was to be done.
 - There are fallen trees, etc. that have not been cleared.
 - The original foundation of the Hilton home has not been maintained.
- R. Konisky stated that he had monitored the property for the SLT in the past but stated that the language of the easement was confusing.
- A. Watts said that one of the reasons the trail had not been done is that there is no way to cross the railroad tracks.
- Later in the meeting R. Konisky asked B. Hart of SLT to clarify ownership of the land. B. Hart says that the town owns the land and SLT owns the easement so it is the town's responsibility to maintain. S. Shope offered to be the point person for developing a trail.

3) Discussion of efforts to enroll the Squamscott R. in the NH State Rivers Management and Protection Program: T. Walker of Rockingham Planning Comm., D. Clement of Exeter Local Advisory Committee (ERLAC) and P. Richardson, Chair of the Exeter Cons. Comm.

- The Exeter River has been enrolled since 1996. One 2 mile stretch above the great dam was excluded at the time because the Selectmen had concerns about water sources. As the Exeter R. becomes the Squamscott R. it would make sense to enroll the latter and create one watershed.
- The nomination requires various steps (i.e. resource assessment, notifying abutters, etc.). D.E.S. then reviews it and submits it to the NH House. If it is approved, a local advisory committee is formed (could be combined with ERLAC). Funds are made available to the committee for research, etc.. This does not supercede local management.
- Would also like to tag on the stretch of the Exeter R. that wasn't originally included.

2)

- T. Walker also recommends bringing in towns that are in the “sub” watershed.
- T. Walker needs the Newfields Cons. Comm.’s approval before approaching landowners and the Selectmen. The Stratham Cons. Comm. has already agreed to enrollment.
- R. Konisky feels the watershed approach would be highly effective. For instance, how storm water drainage eventually effects pollution in Great Bay.
- D. Mason asked why this is happening now. T. Walker replied that stimulus funds became available in August. Also, the legislation was changed to allow inclusion of tidal rivers. The application is due 6/1/10 but she would like to submit it sooner if possible.
- R. Gilbert asked if this would require a town meeting. T. Walker replied no, just a letter from the Selectmen.
- D. Mason motions we support the enrollment of the Squamscott River, A. Watts seconds, all in favor YES.

4) Lamprey River Watershed Assoc. has sent us a letter asking us to support nominating the Lamprey as well. A. Watts motions we send a letter supporting the designation, R. Konisky seconds, all in favor YES.

5) Case Property: D. Hyde of the Nature Conservancy and B. Hart of SLT

- The Case property includes 2700 ft. of frontage along the Piscassic River. It has 46 acres minus the house and 4-5 acres. It has been for sale for quite some time and they are now asking \$390,000.
- D. Hyde is working with the Great Bay Protection Partnership which now has some grant money available as other parcels have fallen through. He would like to know whether the NCC would contribute funds. It’s still early in the process. He still needs to get the property appraised.
- The NCC is generally supportive of the idea and would be willing to contribute if able. D. Hyde will meet with us again once he’s had the appraisal done.

6) Southeast Watershed Alliance formation- The state is encouraging local communities to develop shared solutions for waste-water management. An organizational meeting is being held and R. Konisky feels someone from Newfields should attend. R. Gilbert feels it would be ideal for the town Water and Sewer people (i.e R. Buxton) to go.

7) Next meeting: 10/20/09

Adjourn 8:22 p.m.

NCC member L. Hill, 9/21/09

